ABSTRACT

A server that services a number of client computers over an Internet type of a network and that sends cookies to web browsers on those client computers is able to screen out and delete all cookies containing invalid data values. When a client computer web browser submits a request to the server, such as an HTTP request for a web page, the client web browser automatically sends to the server the names and data contents of all cookies that originally came from that server or a related server. The server screens this cookie data contents for illegal data values. If any are found, then when the server next delivers a document to the client web browser, the server inserts into the HTTP header that is associated with the HTML document commands directing the replacement of all named cookies containing erroneous data with new cookies having their expiration dates set to zero so that they are promptly discarded by the client web browser.